

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the office action mailed November 16, 2007. Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Claims 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 USC Section 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 8-16, 19 and 20 have been rejected as anticipated by the Shinar reference, while claims 22 and 23 have been rejected as obvious over Shinar in view of the Ogura publication. The action indicates that claims 2-7, 17, 18, 21, 24 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In keeping with the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance.

In response to the rejection of claims 10 and 11 under Section 112, Applicants have made the appropriate corrections to claim 10. Accordingly, claims 10 and 11 are now in proper form.

In response to the indication of allowable subject matter, applicants have rewritten claim 2 in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 1. Claim 1 has been canceled. Accordingly, claim 2 is in allowable form, as are dependent claims 3-4, which depend directly from claim 2, and claims 8-15, all of which depend from claim 2 either directly or through intervening claims.

Applicants have rewritten claim 5 in independent form as new claim 26. New claim 26 includes all of the limitations of claim 5 and base claim 1. Accordingly, new claim 26 is in allowable form, as are claims 6 and 7, which have been amended to depend from claim 26.

Applicants have rewritten claim 17 in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 16. Accordingly, claim 17 is in allowable form, as are claims 19 and 20, which have been amended to depend from claim 17.

Applicants also have rewritten claim 18 in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 16. Accordingly, claim 18 is in allowable form, as are new dependent claims 27 and 28.

Applicants have rewritten claim 21 in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 16. Accordingly, claim 21 is in allowable form.

In response to the objection to claim 24, Applicants have amended claim 22 to include all of the limitations of claims 24 and intervening claim 23. Accordingly, claim 22 is in allowable form, as is dependent claim 25.

Applicants have canceled claims 1, 16, and 23-24.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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